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Ministry of Education
Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

PROVINCE SUPPORTS SUMMER LITERACY CAMPS IN NASS VALLEY

NEW AIYANSH – The Province will provide $35,000 to Frontier College to operate two summer reading camps in the Nisga'a communities of New Aiyansh and Laxgalts'ap, Minister of Education Shirley Bond announced today.

"The villages of New Aiyansh and Laxgalts'ap and the Nisga'a School district have shown strong leadership in support for literacy," said Bond. "I welcome this chance to work together to support this new opportunity for Nass Valley youth."

The reading camps are being offered in collaboration between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and will run for three weeks in the month of August.

"I'm pleased that we can partner with the villages of New Aiyansh and Laxgalts'ap and Frontier College to offer these literacy-focused camps in the Nass Valley," said Healthy Living and Sport Minister Mary Polak, who is visiting the camps in New Aiyansh. "These are pilot projects that the Province hopes to expand next summer to other rural and remote communities."

New Aiyansh and Laxgalts'ap were identified as ideal locations to pilot the reading camps, and the communities have strongly supported the concept.

"Improving literacy for Aboriginal learners is a key objective of this government and part of our commitment to help close the socio-economic gaps between Aboriginal people and other British Columbians," said Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister Michael de Jong. "Frontier College has an impressive reputation for offering literacy programs in rural and remote areas and is ideally suited for this project."

Frontier College is a leader in providing education programs in rural and remote communities across Canada. The college began sending student volunteers to work and teach in remote regions starting in 1899 and has been active in B.C. for over 100 years.

"For over a century, Frontier College has reached learners throughout B.C., including those living in remote mining and lumber communities. We're proud to be a partner with the Ministry of Education and the village governments of New Aiyansh and Laxgalts'ap to provide two new Aboriginal summer literacy camps for children in those communities," said Sherry Campbell, president of Frontier College. "We welcome this groundbreaking initiative and applaud the B.C. government's leadership in the promotion of literacy."

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Since 2001, government has invested more than $137 million in new literacy initiatives, including pre-literacy and early learning programs such as $9.5 million to operate the kindergarten readiness program Ready, Set, Learn, and $2.7 million for the ActNow Literacy Education Activity and Play (LEAP BC) program that encourages literacy, physical activity and healthy eating in preschool-aged children.

For more information on ReadNow BC, the government's provincial literacy strategy, visit www.readnowbc.ca.

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